

8th Grade English Language Arts 2012-2013

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English Language Arts is a year-long class that focuses on the essential life skills: reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language usage.

Course Objective: The eighth grade English Language Arts curriculum focuses on developing essential life skills to build a foundation for student success in high school and the activities of everyday life. During the process of improving these essential skills, students will study various literary genres, practice grammar usage, learn new vocabulary, and engage in writing. Students are expected to learn to view the English language as a tool for communication and reflection.

Units of Study:

Literary Genres: Units of study include nonfiction, fiction, drama, science fiction, and poetry. McDougal Littell's *The Language of Literature* is the primary resource.

Writing Workshop: Units of study include personal narrative, literary essay, informational essay, and argument writing.

Language Usage: The focus of language usage lessons will be influenced by student writing and includes learning the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage through writing and sentence combining.

Reading Workshop: Students will be reading independently both during and outside of class. They will learn and develop reading strategies to increase comprehension and analyze text.

Vocabulary: Weekly lessons and quizzes will help students develop a stronger vocabulary.

Classroom Guidelines:

- Students are expected to behave in a manner conducive to learning. Disruptions in the learning process because of behavior will not be tolerated. All students are expected to follow the golden rule.
- Students should be ready to learn at the class meeting time. All materials should be brought to class.
- Use of hall passes will be recorded, monitored, and minimally allowed.
- All work should be submitted when due. Late work will be penalized or not accepted at the teacher's discretion. The general guideline is a 10% deduction per day late. There will be exceptions to the guideline based on individual circumstances.
- An absent student will receive brief instructions from the teacher for missed lessons but should also seek assistance from classmates and the teacher for clarification. Missed work should be submitted within the same number of days as the student was absent.
- Any assignment not turned in due to absence will be expected upon the student's return.

Materials:

Students are responsible for bringing learning materials and supplies to the classroom. Learning materials include: writer's notebook, reader's notebook, course notebook, any issued texts as needed, assignments, independent reading book, and pen, pencil, and highlighter. These materials and supplies should be kept organized and readily available.

Grading: All grades will be determined by dividing the points earned on assignments by the total points possible. Grades are determined by the standard North Muskegon grading scale:

A+	100 - 99	C	76 – 73
A	98 – 93	C-	72 – 70
A-	92 – 90	D+	69 – 67
B+	89 – 87	D	66 – 63
B	86 – 83	D-	62 – 60
B-	82 – 80	F	59 – 0
C+	79 – 77		

My signature indicates that I have read the syllabus for Ms. Knuth's 8th grade Language Arts course.

Student

Parent/Guardian